

REMARKS

By this Amendment, claims 3, 4 and 7-9 are amended, claims 10-12 are added, and claims 1, 2, 5 and 6 are canceled, without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter found therein. No new matter is added. Accordingly, claims 3, 4, 7-12 are pending in this application. Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

I. Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants gratefully acknowledge that the Office Action indicates that claims 3 and 7 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the features of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim 3 is rewritten in independent form to incorporate all features of claim 1. Claim 4 is only amended to depend from claim 3. Thus, claims 3 and 4 are allowable.

Claim 7 is rewritten in independent form to incorporate all features of claim 5. Claims 8 and 9 are only amended to depend from claim 7. Thus, claims 7-9 are allowable.

II. Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102(e)

The Office Action rejects claims 1, 2, 4-6 and 8-9 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over U.S. Patent No. 6,659,131 to Tsourides. The rejection is moot with respect to canceled claims 1, 2, 5 and 6, and is respectfully traversed with respect to claims 4, 8 and 9.

As discussed above, claim 3 is rewritten in independent form and incorporates all features of allowable claim 1, and claim 4 depends from claim 3. Claim 7 is rewritten in independent form and incorporates all features of allowable claim 5, and claims 8 and 9 depend from claim 7. Accordingly, claims 4, 8 and 9 are patentable over Tsourides. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

III. New Claims

Applicant respectfully submit that new claims 10-12 are patentable over the references of record.

In particular, Applicant notes that Tsourides does not disclose, teach or suggest a gas supply unit including a filter block that includes "a filter chamber in which the filter element is placed; a first port and a second port which are formed on an upper surface and connected to an inlet port and an outlet port of one of the fluid control devices respectively; and a third port and a fourth port which are formed on a lower surface and connected to ports of the piping block, and the first port and the third port communicating with each other through the filter element in the filter chamber, and the second port and the fourth port communicating with each other outside the filter chamber," as recited in independent claim 10. Tsourides also does not disclose, teach or suggest a gas supply unit including a filter block "placed over two of the piping blocks when one of the fluid control devices is mounted on the filter block," as recited in independent claim 12.

IV. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 3, 4, 7-12 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachment:

Amendment Transmittal

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